27th November 1928]

A.—(*a*) The District Board has agreed to guarantee the Railway Board against loss, if any, arising out of the construction and working of the line. The repayment to the District Board of the guarantee paid by it will be a first charge on any net profits that may be derived from the line should it prove remunerative. The District Board has no control over the line or its administration.

(*b*) Within the last 25 years, the District Board proposed the construction of the following lines out of its funds :—

(1) Cuddalore-Vriddhachalam.
(2) Ulundurpet to Chinnasalem *via* Kallakurichi.
(3) Extension of No. (2) to the district frontier.
(4) Cuddalore-Pondicherry.

Items (2) and (3) did not materialise.

Item (1) has been constructed by the Government of India.

Item (4) has been included in the Railway programme and will be constructed from Imperial funds.

Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi :—" In regard to item (4) in clause (*b*), may I know when the line will be taken up for actual construction I mean the Cuddalore-Pondicherry line ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" It depends upon the railway programme. I cannot say."

Labour

Action taken on the recommendations of the Unemployment Committee.

*728 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Unemployment Committee ?

A.—The recommendations of the Unemployment Committee which relate mainly to educational reforms and the popularizing of agriculture as a means of livelihood are under the consideration of the departments concerned. Final decisions have not yet been made.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know when the Government will come to a decision in the matter ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" It is not possible for me to say at present."

Police

Alleged interference of the Police in the Calicut municipal elections.

*729 Q.—Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the complaints made by the nationalist as well as the moderate and loyalist papers in Calicut about the repeated and improper interference by the Police of Calicut in the municipal elections there ;

(b) whether Mr. C. Krishnan, the Editor of the *Mitavadi*, had made any such complaint to the local authorities and whether any enquiry has been made thereon ; and

(c) whether the Government will consider the desirability of warning the Calicut Police against such interference in future ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The Government are unaware of any necessity for such a warning.

Floods

Floods in the Vizagapatam district.

* 730-A *Q.*—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of villages in the Vizagapatam district affected by the recent rains and floods ;

(b) whether the floods were the result of the rains in the hills or whether they were also due to the breaches of any tanks ;

(c) the extent of damage with reference to

(i) loss of human life,
(ii) loss of cattle,
(iii) loss of crops,
(iv) loss of houses,
(v) loss of roads and communications,
(vi) loss of irrigation sources ;

(d) whether the Government have received any reports from the local officers about the damage and if so, whether the same will be placed on the Council table ;

(e) whether any relief measures have been taken or proposed to be taken to give relief in the affected area ; and

(f) whether the Government have sanctioned any contributions towards relief of the affected area in the Vizagapatam district ?

A.—(a) 'Affected' is a somewhat general term. The Collector's report mentions places where serious damage was caused by the floods.

(b) *to* (f) The hon. Member is referred to the report[a] of the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 7th November 1928, and the Government orders[a] on the subject that have been placed on the table of the House.

Damages by floods in Peddapur, Tuni and other taluks in East Godavari district.

* 730-B *Q.*—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether on account of the recent rain and floods there was heavy damage in the Peddapur, Pithapur, Tuni, Cocanada and Ramachandrapur taluks of the East Godavari district ;

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[a] Laid on the table on the 26th November 1928.